



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NEW COMMANDER TAKES REINS OF V CORPS AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BATTALION

By Capt. J. Adam Falk

69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade Public Affairs Office

**ANSBACH, Germany** — Lt. Col. Timothy S. Sughrue passed the command of V Corps' 6th Battalion, 52nd Air Defense Artillery to Lt. Col. Charles L. McMurtrey III in a ceremony at the Katterbach Army Airfield here August 27.



CAPT J. ADAM FALK

Col. R. Kirk Lawrence, commander of V Corps' 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade (left), passes the colors of the brigade's 6th Battalion, 52nd ADA to the battalion's incoming commander, Lt. Col. Charles L. McMurtrey III, during a change-of-command ceremony for the battalion at Katterbach Army Airfield in Ansbach, Germany August 27.

Sughrue, who has commanded 6/52nd ADA since October 2002, led the unit's Soldiers to combat last year during Operation Iraqi Freedom. During that deployment the Patriot missile battalion successfully destroyed two Iraqi Scud missiles. In June 2004, he led the 6/52nd in their support of ceremonies honoring World War II veterans during the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in

Normandy, France. He will move with his family to Vicenza, Italy, where he will take a position in the operations division of U.S. Army Europe's Southern European Task Force.

"You don't need me any more, but we still need you!", Sughrue told 6-52 ADA Soldiers during his farewell speech.

The Soldiers of the 6/52nd were joined on the airstrip for the ceremony by members of their German partnership unit, the 23rd Surface-to-Air Missile Group, and the USAREUR Band, which provided music for the change of command ceremony. Patriot launching stations surrounded the battalion formation.

Sughrue thanked the Soldiers, family members, the 69th ADA Brigade and the 23rd SAM Group. He also expressed his thanks to those who assisted him throughout his command.

"I will miss the Soldiers most. I will miss being able to look Soldiers in the eye and thank them as their commander for doing what they do each and every day," said Sughrue.

McMurtrey takes the helm of the 6/52nd following a tour in Washington D.C., where he served as the chief of surface air defense systems at the Joint Theater Air and Missile Defense Organization.

"I am thrilled to come to Ansbach and take command of this battalion. (The) 6/52nd has a long legacy of greatness. It is an honor and privilege to now be a part of that tradition," said McMurtrey.

"My objectives for the battalion are to ensure Soldiers are properly trained to execute their wartime mission; that leadership is prepared to lead from the front, and that families are cared for and kept informed of our mission," said McMurtrey.

McMurtrey graduated from Auburn University and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1988. He has also earned master's degrees from the University of Alabama and the Air Command and Staff College.

